

1 CLAIMS

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3 1. A smart card comprising:

4 a key, associated with a household, to be used to encrypt and decrypt media

5 content associated with the household; and

6 a memory unit, the memory unit including,

7 a user-specific information storage section to store user preferences,

8 and

9 a data storage section to store data that is expected to be of value to a

10 user.

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12 2. A smart card as recited in claim 1, wherein the memory unit

13 comprises a nonvolatile memory.

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15 3. A smart card as recited in claim 1, wherein the data comprises

16 electronic money.

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18 4. A smart card as recited in claim 3, wherein the smart card can be used

19 to encrypt and decrypt media content only if at least a threshold amount of

20 electronic money is stored on the smart card.

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22 5. A smart card as recited in claim 1, wherein the smart card

23 corresponds to a particular category of media content and is used to encrypt and

24 decrypt only that particular category of media content.

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1 6. A smart card as recited in claim 5, wherein one of the categories of
2 media content comprises family-oriented media content and another of the
3 categories of media content comprises adult-oriented media content.

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5 7. A smart card as recited in claim 1, wherein the memory unit further
6 includes a rating associated with the smart card that is used to compare the rating
7 with a rating corresponding to the media content and determine, based on the
8 comparison, whether to allow access to the media content.

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10 8. A smart card as recited in claim 1, wherein the smart card is used to
11 limit where rendering of the media content can occur.

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13 9. A smart card comprising:
14 a key, associated with a household, to be used to encrypt and decrypt media
15 content associated with the household; and
16 a data storage section to store data that is expected to be of value to a user.

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18 10. A smart card as recited in claim 9, further comprising a
19 communications module to communicate, to a computing device module that
20 encrypts media content, an indication of whether to encrypt the media content
21 based on data stored in the data storage section.

1 11. A smart card as recited in claim 9, further comprising a
2 communications module to communicate, to a computing device module that
3 decrypts media content, an indication of whether to decrypt the media content
4 based on data stored in the data storage section.

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6 12. A smart card as recited in claim 9, further comprising a processor to
7 execute instructions to encrypt and decrypt the media content.

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9 13. A smart card as recited in claim 9, wherein the data storage section
10 is maintained in a nonvolatile memory.

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12 14. A smart card as recited in claim 9, further comprising a user-specific
13 information storage section to store user preferences.

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15 15. A smart card as recited in claim 9, wherein the data in the data
16 storage section comprises electronic money.

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18 16. A method of encrypting media content, the method comprising:
19 checking whether a smart card is authorized to encrypt the media content;
20 and
21 encrypting the media content only if the smart card is authorized to encrypt
22 the media content.

1 17. A method as recited in claim 16, further comprising determining
2 that the smart card is authorized to encrypt the media content if at least a threshold
3 amount of electronic money is available on the smart card.
4

5 18. A method as recited in claim 16, further comprising determining
6 that the smart card is authorized to encrypt the media content only if data is stored
7 on the smart card that is expected to be of value to a user.
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9 19. A method as recited in claim 16, further comprising:
10 checking whether the smart card is authorized to decrypt media content;
11 and
12 decrypting the media content only if the smart card is authorized to decrypt
13 the media content.
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15 20. One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer
16 program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim
17 16.
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19 21. A method of decrypting media content, the method comprising:
20 checking whether a smart card is authorized to decrypt the media content;
21 and
22 decrypting the media content only if the smart card is authorized to decrypt
23 the media content.
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22. A method as recited in claim 21, further comprising determining that the smart card is authorized to decrypt the media content if at least a threshold amount of electronic money is available on the smart card.

23. A method as recited in claim 21, further comprising determining that the smart card is authorized to decrypt the media content only if data is stored on the smart card that is expected to be of value to a user.

24. A method as recited in claim 21, further comprising:
checking whether the smart card is authorized to encrypt media content;
and
encrypting the media content only if the smart card is authorized to encrypt the media content.

25. One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 21.

26. A system comprising:
a plurality of smart cards, each to be used for encrypting different categories of media content; and
an encryption module coupled to receive media content and encrypt the media content based on a key maintained on one of the plurality of smart cards.

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27. A system as recited in claim 26, further comprising a decoding module, coupled to receive the encrypted media content, decrypt the encrypted media content, decode the decrypted media content, and transmit the decoded media content to a rendering module.

28. A system as recited in claim 26, wherein one of the categories of media content comprises family-oriented media content and another of the categories of media content comprises adult-oriented media content.

29. A method of allowing parental control over media content, the method comprising:

receiving media content;

encrypting the received media content based on a household identifier corresponding to a smart card; and

requiring the smart card to be present to decrypt and render the media content.

30. A method as recited in claim 29, wherein the requiring comprises requiring the smart card to be inserted into a smart card reader coupled to a computing device that is decrypting the media content.

31. A method as recited in claim 29, further comprising using a plurality of different smart cards to encrypt and decrypt media content, each of the plurality of smart cards corresponding to a different category of media content.

1 **32.** A method as recited in claim 31, wherein one of the categories of
2 media content comprises family-oriented media content and another of the
3 categories of media content comprises adult-oriented media content.

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5 **33.** One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer
6 program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim
7 29.

8
9 **34.** A method of allowing parental control over media content, the
10 method comprising:

11 comparing a rating corresponding to the media content to a rating
12 associated with a smart card; and

13 allowing access to the media content if the rating corresponding to the
14 media content does not exceed the rating associated with the smart card.

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16 **35.** A method as recited in claim 34, wherein the rating associated with
17 the smart card is stored on the smart card.

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19 **36.** A method as recited in claim 34, wherein the allowing access
20 comprises allowing the media content to be decrypted for rendering.

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22 **37.** A method as recited in claim 34, wherein the allowing access
23 comprises allowing the media content to be encrypted for subsequent processing.
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1 38. One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a
2 computer program that, when executed by a computing device, causes the
3 computing device to perform acts including:

4 receiving media content;

5 controlling encryption of the received media content based on a household
6 identifier corresponding to a smart card; and

7 maintaining user preferences information on the smart card, the user
8 preferences information being available only when the smart card is coupled to the
9 computing device.
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11 39. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 38,
12 wherein the smart card is coupled to the computing device when the smart card is
13 inserted into a smart card reader that is coupled to the computing device.
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15 40. A smart card comprising:

16 a key, associated with a household, to be used to encrypt and decrypt media
17 content associated with the household; and

18 a user-specific information storage section to store user preferences.
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20 41. A smart card as recited in claim 40, further comprising a
21 communications module to communicate, to a computing device module that
22 encrypts media content, the user preferences stored in the user-specific
23 information storage section.
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1 42. A smart card as recited in claim 40, further comprising a processor
2 to manage the user-specific information storage section.

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4 43. A smart card as recited in claim 40, wherein the user-specific
5 information storage section is maintained in a nonvolatile memory.

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7 44. A smart card as recited in claim 40, further comprising a data
8 storage section to store data that is expected to be of value to a user.

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10 45. A method comprising:
11 maintaining, on a smart card, information regarding a user's preferences
12 corresponding to media content; and
13 maintaining, on a smart card, a key to be used to encrypt and decrypt media
14 content associated with a household.

15
16 46. One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer
17 program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim
18 45.

19
20 47. A method of identifying boundaries of a network of devices, the
21 method comprising:
22 encrypting media content based on an identifier corresponding to a plurality
23 of smart cards; and
24 limiting rendering of the media content to a network of devices to which
25 the plurality of smart cards are coupled.

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2 48. A method as recited in claim 47, wherein the network devices
3 include devices to receive media content and devices to render media content.

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5 49. A smart card as recited in claim 47, wherein one of the plurality of
6 smart cards is coupled to a device when the smart card is inserted into a smart card
7 reader coupled to the device.

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9 50. A smart card as recited in claim 47, wherein the network of devices
10 is maintained within a single house.

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12 51. A smart card as recited in claim 47, wherein the plurality of smart
13 cards can be moved to different devices to alter the boundaries of the network.

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